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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.RINDERPEST STRIKES NORTH CHINA

Pei-p'ing, 24 January (Hsin-hua) -- A serious cattle plague (rinderpest) epidemic has been ravaging various areas of Chahar, Honan, and Kansu provinces since December 1949. The Central People's government is cooperating with local authorities to eradicate this epidemic by sending veterinarians and blood serum to the affected areas.

The initial incidence of this disease was reported in Yen-pei region of Chahar Province in mid-December. Of 150 infected agricultural animals, 80 have died. The Chahar Province People's government immediately sent some 30 epizootologists into the afflicted areas. On 11 January, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's government dispatched to the afflicted areas, 41 epizootologists, of the Agricultural Science Research Institute, equipped with 200,000 cubic centimeters of blood serum and other necessary pharmaceutical supplies. The preventive work in Chahar is expected to be completed by the end of January.

A similar epidemic also struck 13 hsien in Honan Province, including Huai-yang, Shan-chou (Ueda: 12849; 2764), and Nan-yang. Here again the governmental antiepidemiologic units cooperated with local units and succeeded in checking the epidemic. The local epizootic units have thus far inoculated approximately 28,000 animals in Shan-chou, Huai-yang, Teng Hsien, and T'ai-k'ang.

Another serious epidemic outbreak occurred in some scattered areas in Kansu Province beginning January. It resulted in the death of nearly 1,000 agricultural animals. The Ministry of Agriculture has already sent one million cubic centimeters of blood serum to Lan-chou for the eradication and control of the cattle plague, epidemic.

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